



## Richard Proenneke National Historic Site – Visitor's Guide

### Protecting a Treasure

Help us protect Dick Proenneke's cabin so that generations of visitors will be able to experience what it has to offer.

The site is managed as an exploratory exhibit.

**Leave everything you find behind.** Removal of artifacts from public land is prohibited by law.

The tundra is fragile. Even Dick Proenneke admonished his guests to stay on his trails to protect the vegetation. **Please stay on the trails.**

**Be gentle with the door.** The handcrafted door mechanisms are fragile and have been repaired.

Camping at this site or occupancy of this structure is prohibited. 36CFR13.126

No fires are allowed in the stove, fireplace or any other location.

**Help us care for this special place.** Damage to the site, structures, furnishings, fixtures or any part of the Historic Site is prohibited (36CFR2.1). Please report any damage or suspected violation to the National Park Service at 907-781-2218

Thank you for your assistance

Photo: Fragile vegetation is easily trampled.



### Richard Proenneke's Legacy

Richard Proenneke, whose friends called him Dick, is an icon of wilderness values and an inspiration to those who value simplicity, direct connection with nature, self-reliance, and ingenuity. Dick arrived at Twin Lakes in 1967 to begin crafting what would become his cabin and wilderness home for the next thirty years.

A master craftsman dedicated to living simply on the land, he used local materials and simple tools to craft a home and life in keeping with the wilderness. His cabin now stands out as the best example of the thousands of log cabins built in bush Alaska over the past century.

Dick brought a desire to know the wilderness around him to Twin Lakes. He meticulously recorded his observations of the weather, wildlife, wilderness and even other human visitors. He came to know the landscape and wildlife around him, observing changing season, wildlife patterns, and weather variations from year to year.

Dick lived at Twin Lakes with the independent spirit, self-reliance, and ingenuity bush Alaska residents are famous for.

*"Needs? I guess that is what bothers so many folks. They keep expanding their needs until they are dependent on too many things and too many other people... I wonder how many things in the average American home could be eliminated if the question were asked, 'Must I really have this?' I guess most of the extras are chalked up to comfort or saving time."*

*Funny thing about comfort - one man's comfort is another man's misery. Most people don't work hard enough physically anymore, and comfort is not easy to find. It is surprising how comfortable a hard bunk can be after you come down off a mountain."*

~Richard Proenneke





## Richard L. Proenneke National Historic Site

National Historic Sites are places recognized by the National Park Service for their significance in American History. The Richard L. Proenneke National Historic Site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007 in recognition of its stature as an excellent and well-known example of an Alaskan bush log cabin. It is also recognized for Richard Proenneke's voice in the preservation of wilderness in Alaska. Proenneke's interests, talents and circumstances made him influential in shaping and educating the public about the wisdom of conservation of our natural world.

### Map

